

# Food Safety Reforms

- Safe handling labels, 1993
- FoodNet, 1994
- Under Secretary for Food Safety, 1994
- Seafood HACCP rule, 1995
- Safe Drinking Water Act, Food Quality Protection Act, 1996



# Additional reforms:

- Pathogen Reduction and HACCP rule, 1996
  - SSOP implementation, 1997
  - HACCP implementation, 1998-2000
- President's Food Safety Initiative, 1997-2001
- President's Council on Food Safety and JIFSR, 1998
- Egg Safety Action Plan, 1999



# Reducing the Risk of Foodborne Illness

- Risk Assessment - Ian Gardner
- Risk Management - Tom Billy
- Risk Communication - Scott Ratzan
- State Perspective - Doug Saunders



# President's Council on Food Safety (EO 13100)

- Strategic Plan, 1/19/01
  - Goals, objectives, actions
  - Performance measures
  - Organizational structure
  - Legislation
- Coordinated budget



# Strategic Plan

## Overarching Goal

To protect public health by significantly reducing the prevalence of foodborne hazards, thereby reducing acute and chronic illnesses and injuries through science-based and coordinated regulation, inspection, enforcement, research, and education programs.



# Strategic Plan Goals

- U.S. food safety system is based on sound science and risk assessment.
- U. S. system for managing food safety is effective from farm to table.
- U.S. food safety system openly and effectively provides information on food safety risks and education on how to control those risks for everyone from farm to table.



# Key Findings (1)

- Existing organizational structure
  - Reflects statutes of 100 years
  - Allows for diverse agency input
  - Reduces ability to allocate resources on risk
  - Impedes coordination



## Key Findings (2)

- Reorganization will not improve public health protection.
- Statutory reform, implementation of Plan are needed.
- Plan can be implemented under any organization.
- No single organization is perfect solution.



# Recommendations

- Near-term legislative proposals
- Near-term efforts to strengthen agency coordination
- Comprehensive unifying legislation, followed by organization reform plan



# Comprehensive Legislative Reform

- Risk-based, prevention-oriented system for all food
- Allow for risk assessment, use of science-based preventive controls, allocation of resources based on risks, use of modern enforcement tools, measurement of results
- No weakening of existing statutory authorities



# Further reforms are needed

- Foodborne illnesses are major cost to society.
- Vulnerable populations are growing.
- Food production, distribution, and consumption have changed.
- Public concern remains high.
- Changing laws and structures would strengthen public health protection, improve efficiency.